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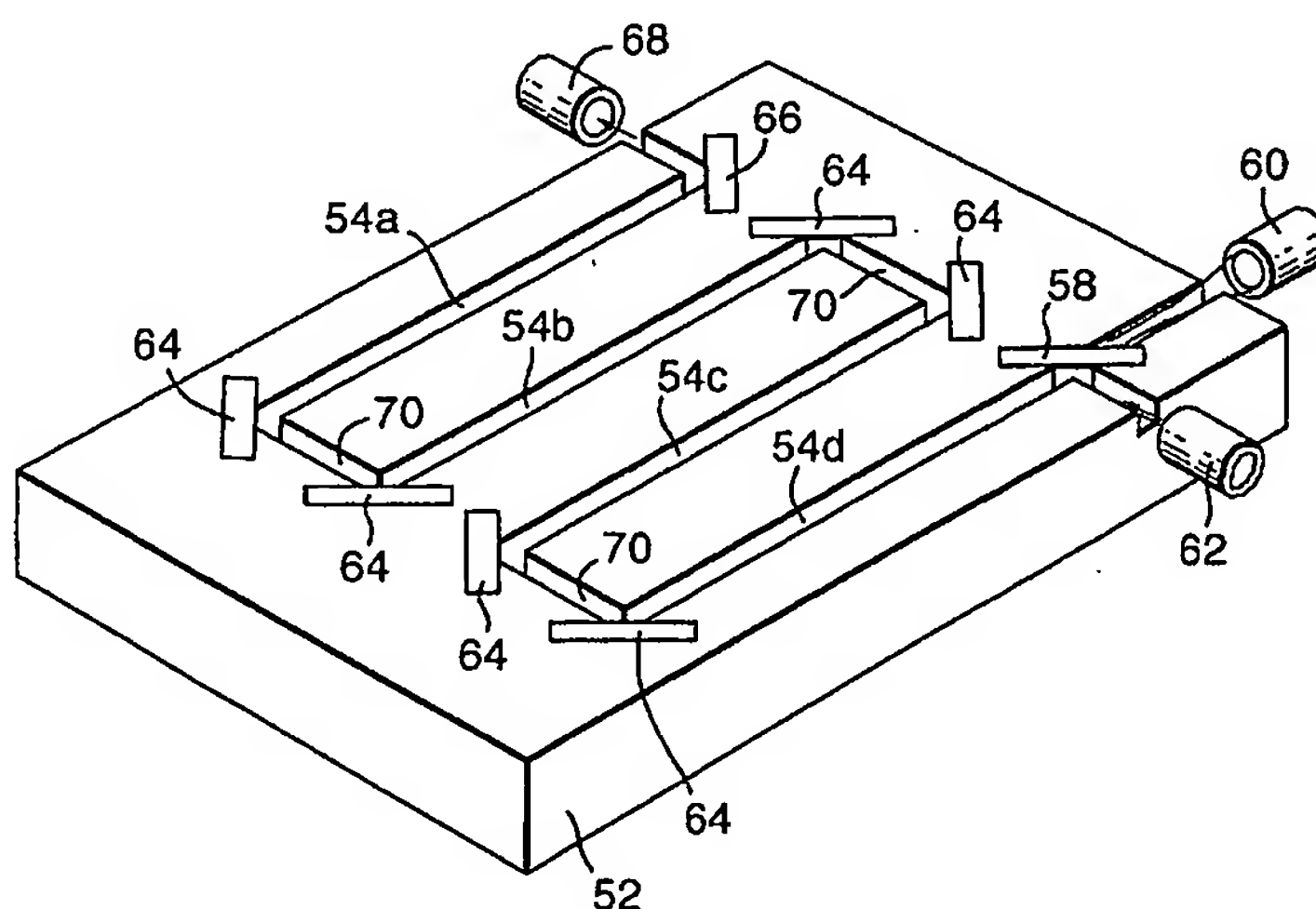
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(54) Title: OPTICAL FIBRE AMPLIFIER



(57) Abstract: An optical amplifier (50; 66) is described that comprises at least two sections of amplifying optical fibre (24; 56; 84; 94) and pumping means for optically pumping the amplifying optical fibre (24; 56; 84; 94). Optical fibre support means, for example a channel or channels in a substrate (20; 26; 42; 44; 54), are also provided to hold the two or more sections of amplifying optical fibre (24; 56; 84; 94) substantially straight during use. The optical fibre support means also includes a means for coupling light between the at least two sections of amplifying optical fibre. The at least one amplifying optical fibre (24; 56; 84; 94) may comprise an Erbium doped core to provide an erbium doped fibre amplifier (EDFA).



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